



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	Social Sciences
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Psychology

Destination city & country	Perth, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	University of Western Australia
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	31/01/2018
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	30/07/2018

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The application process was relatively straightforward but also quite lengthy (around a year) due to the amount of paperwork that had to be filled in. In my case, it was very important to check whether both UU and UWA processed the application correctly, since there was a mix up of semesters in which I wanted to attend UWA.

Counselling/support at home university:

Support from the home university was good. I think it is best to email directly to region 3 of UU's international office to get the support you're seeking.

Academic preparation:

The amount of academic preparation depends on which units you choose to do. I enrolled in three level 3 units and one level 1 unit so I'd say you do need academic preparation for level 3 units but you don't need to prepare for the level 1 unit.

Language preparation:

I had to provide an IELTS test but no preparation was needed for this test, it just cost money to sit the exam. Further English preparation wasn't necessary.

Finances:

Living in Perth is quite expensive but your expenses depend on what you want to do during your



stay. Make sure you've got a realistic financial plan and you'll be fine. You're also allowed to work 20h/w on a student visa so if you want to you can work during your stay in Perth.

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

It was very helpful that UWA gives students time to experience the units and switch when they're not entirely happy with their choice. I switched one unit and had to ask for approval from the UU, which they gave me within a day.

Level 1 units are easy and probably easier than level 1 units at the UU. I also entered a few level 3 units from a different faculty and I would recommend reading the handbook before choosing the units so you know what to expect because the workload can be higher when you're not familiar with the topics.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The academic quality was good but as mentioned before, there is a big difference between the levels.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

UWA was very supportive and offered all the help that I needed.

Transfer of credits:

Credits are not yet transferred.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

The orientation week was packed with fun activities and I highly recommend participating in a lot of them. Join all the activities that you find interesting because this is the time to meet new people and get involved in UWA's student life.

I stayed at Unihall, which is one of the colleges across the road, and they also had a fully packed orientation week planned so I had to find a way to combine all of it to get the most out of this week.

Accommodation:

As mentioned above, I stayed at Unihall. This college is probably the least strict college out of the 5 colleges you can choose from. It was expensive but if you seek for a place where you can live with your friends, be close to UWA and get the full college experience, you should apply for a room at one of the colleges. Unihall's community is supportive and has the best location on college row. However, if you prefer a more independent lifestyle (comparable with living in a student apartment in Utrecht) you should go for renting a private property.

Leisure/culture:

Perth offers plenty of fun activities. Aside from the amazing beaches, there are a lot of great places to eat (including breakfast), enjoy nature, Perth's nightlife and sports. You might have to drive a bit but outside of Perth is a lot to discover as well.

Suggestions/tips:

- I highly recommend hiring a car and go on road trips with friends. WA is absolutely stunning so go explore its beautiful nature and wildlife when you've got some spare time. Don't only go to Cottesloe beach but search for less crowded beaches (be aware of the



signs though, because sharks etc. are around).

- Get yourself involved in lots of activities and choose your units wisely so you have a good balance between your free time and the units' workload.

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

I would highly recommend studying at UWA. The university offers good quality education, provides support and gives you the opportunity to get involved in loads of different activities. Aside from that, Australia's lifestyle is (as expected) very laidback and there is no need to worry about anything because everything is easily solved and people are always willing to help.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

In case you're in doubt whether you'd like to study abroad for more than one semester, I would recommend staying two semesters. Time flies and the semester is over before you know it!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	Bètawetenschappen
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Farmacie bachelor

Destination city & country	Perth, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	The University of Western Australia
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	13-02-2018
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	29-07-2018

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

It is a long process, it takes several months to apply and to get accepted. There is a lot of paperwork. I would definitely recommend starting early so you have enough time to sort everything out.

Counselling/support at home university:

The staff at Utrecht University is very friendly and in general they replied quickly whenever I had any questions about the whole process.

Academic preparation:

The syllabuses of the units at UWA clearly state if any previous knowledge is required to enrol in a certain unit. I only enrolled in first year units so I did not have any problems entering my units.

Language preparation:

The courses are taught in English, I think most university students will have a sufficient level of English.

Finances:

Australia is an expensive country to live. I made estimation of my expenses before I left to Australia. I found relatively cheap accommodation and saved some money there, but I spend more money on groceries and eating out than I expected.



Study/placement abroad period
Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):
At UWA you will be permitted to allocate your courses yourself. Most courses have two 1 hour lectures a week (they are also recorded) and a one hour tutorial where attendance is mandatory.
Academic quality of education/placement activities:
I really enjoyed my courses at UWA. Most lectures offered a broad amount of information and the tutorials involve a lot of discussions with other students. It is a pleasant way to work.
Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:
The exchange office at UWA will give you a lot of information before the semester starts. This information helped a lot in the process, and they replied quickly to any questions I had.
Transfer of credits:
I have not gone through this process yet.
Student life
Welcome/orientation programme:
In the week before the courses start a lot of activities are organised to help international students to get to know Perth and meet their fellow students. It is a good opportunity to make some new friends. Not all of the activities were mandatory.
Accommodation:
A lot of international students stay in the colleges near the campus. Besides accommodation they will also give you three meals a day and you can participate in the activities they organise there. However these colleges are very pricy. This is why I chose to look for accommodation somewhere else. I started searching for a room while I was still in the Netherlands but I was unsuccessful so for the first two weeks I stayed in a hostel. It was a bit stressful to not have a room at the beginning but it was not too hard to find one eventually. On top of that in a hostel you get to meet a lot of other international people in Australia and a lot of them have great tips for travelling around.
Leisure/culture:
Perth is a great city with a lot of events. Most beaches are about half an hour away from the city, and there are a lot of National Parks with exciting hiking trails close to Perth. Besides that UWA has a lot of clubs that organise activities during the semester. At the beginning of the semester you will be able to join those clubs for a fee (most between \$5-\$10).
Suggestions/tips:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- A lot of international students want to travel around after they finish their courses. Australia can be very expensive since the distances between towns are very large, and for some roads you might need a 4WD. Make sure you save enough money.- Another option is going to other countries. Bali is very cheap, but most flights to Asian countries are not too expensive.- Most people think Australia is always warm, but Perth is a city with a lot of wind. Sometimes there was a lot of rain and it can be cold. Make sure to pack at least two good sweaters.
Conclusions
Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:



I would definitely recommend UWA. The University is beautiful and I enjoyed my stay here in Perth so much. There are so many other great things to do here besides studying.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

No



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	Medicine
Level:	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Biomedical Science

Destination city & country	Perth, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	University of Western Australia
Purpose of exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	18/07/2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	19/12/2017

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

It takes a lot of time and effort to finish the application process from the first deadline at the UU till the final approval of units you want to take. It's worth it, but start early.

Counselling/support at home university:

You'll get help if you ask for it, but only if you ask for it. Don't hesitate to ask for help.

Academic preparation:

The academic level of Biomedical Science at UU is good, so wherever in the world you'll go, I think you'll be prepared really well academically speaking.

Language preparation:

The average level of English of Dutch students is good enough to find your way through exchange in Australia.

Finances:

There are several scholarships you can apply for, including the BMW Grant. Australia is expensive and Perth especially (one of the most expensive cities to live in).

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

I took the biomedical units Cancer Pathology, Viruses and Viral Disease, and Advanced Neuroscience II, and Exercise Rehabilitation at sport science (all third year units). Officially, you



cannot take Neuro II without Neuro I and, although I did it and passed, I wouldn't advice it. Neuro I contains all the lectures and Neuro II is difficult without them.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The unit Cancer Pathology was of a lower level than expected, so I'd advice not to take that unit. All other units were a good balance of lectures and application of the subject matter.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

There's a lot of help and support available. Help with your units, personal matters, study problems, ... ; you can find help with literally anything.

Transfer of credits:

The percentages I got as grades in Australia were transferred by dividing them by ten.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

The orientation programme from the university is nice, but not that broad. I guess it's bigger in February, because that's the start of the regular academic year in Australia.

Accommodation:

I stayed at Trinity residential college. There are five colleges right across the road from the university and Trinity is the one with the most internationals and social activities. It's a little bit more expensive than living on your own, but you don't need to worry about groceries and a lot of activities and facilities are included. I would definitely advice going to Trin, without it, my exchange would have been completely different and I would have missed out on a lot of possibilities.

Leisure/culture:

There are many things to do. Perth is the only city in the whole of Western Australia, so they've got basically everything. Colleges and university also organise lots of activities. Get involved!

Suggestions/tips:

Even if you don't go to Perth. Find time to travel in Western Australia. It's amazing.

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

Yes. The city is great, the people are lovely, and the units are good. I do think there are universities in other cities in Australia that have better biomedical science programmes.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Wherever you want to go, try to find someone who's already been on exchange to that university or city to ask for help. People from the international offices know a lot, but not that many specifics. Don't hesitate to contact someone!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	University College Roosevelt
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	UCR Liberal Arts and Sciences

Destination city & country	Perth, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	University of Western Australia
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	22/02/2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	02/06/2017

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

There was a fair amount of paperwork for Utrecht University but ample time was given to complete the paperwork. The application process was a lengthy process—it took several months to apply, be accepted, and enrol.

Counselling/support at home university:

The approval of my application for exchange took over a month, which was worrisome. However, the staff at Utrecht University responded to all emails I sent quickly and were very willing to help me with the application and placement process.

Academic preparation:

Certain UWA courses have pre-requisites but I had no issue entering into higher-level courses at UWA having taken similar pre-requisites at my home university. As I suppose is to be expected with any exchange program, there are certain courses that assumed a basic knowledge of Australia's culture, history, etc., but no additional studying was necessary to understand these references.

Language preparation:

No language preparation necessary; courses are all taught in English.

Finances:

Australia is quite expensive. The cost of accommodation in Perth is significantly more expensive than the cost of accommodation in the Netherlands. However, some of my fellow exchange students were able to find work in Perth and balance work, study, and extracurriculars fairly easily.

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):



The study programme can easily be moulded to suit everyone's preferences. There are a wide variety of courses and I had no issues with time conflicts with my courses. I also liked the format of the courses. Most courses have 2 hours of lectures (optional attendance) and 1 hour of tutorials (mandatory attendance and participation) weekly. The lectures are recorded and can be watched at any point, which makes the study programme more flexible still.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

UWA is ranked a top 100 university worldwide. All of my lecturers had an incredible wealth of knowledge on their subject. The workload at UWA was significantly less intense than my workload at UCR but I feel like I learned more from and was more engaged with my courses at UWA than my courses at UCR.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

The exchange office at UWA is extremely helpful in the process. For every single step I had to take in moving to Perth, I had an email from the office telling me specifically what actions I had to take. Every time I sent an email to the exchange office, I received an answer within half a day.

Transfer of credits:

I have not yet gone through the process of transferring my credits.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

I am not exaggerating when I say that I felt welcome the minute I arrived at the airport gate. UWA has a free shuttle service that picks international students up at the airport and brings them to their residential college. Upon arrival at my residential college, the Dean of Students presented me with a welcome pack and walked me to my room. In the week prior to the start of UWA, there were daily activities that allowed me to bond with other students and get to know Perth. The transition to UWA was made easy and fun.

Accommodation:

I stayed at one of the residential colleges on campus, Trinity. Admittedly, the colleges are expensive but, in my opinion, they are worth the money. For the semester fee at Trinity, you are given a single room, 3 meals a day (the food is good too!), access to washing machines, free private tutoring, music and fitness courses, gym and kitchen access, and are given a place in the numerous activities the college has planned throughout the semester. College activities include formal dinners, pub crawls, various trips, transport to clubs, wine and cheese night, games nights, yoga, fitness classes, etc. The residential colleges are the primary place where UWA students meet their friends for the semester and my college truly is what made my experience in Perth what it was.

Leisure/culture:

It seems like UWA has a club established for all existing interest groups. Most of the clubs have a membership fee, but the fees are reasonable. In my time at UWA I joined the Buddhist Club and the Outdoors Club, both of which I really enjoyed. The beach is about a 20 to 30 minute bus ride from campus and the city is about a 10 to 15 minute bus ride. There are always events happening in Perth itself.

Suggestions/tips:



- 1) If you are interested in surfing or learning how to surf, cheap surfboards are available on GumTree.com. It is worth checking out the surfing scene while in Australia. Shakas ;)
- 2) Take advantage of your position in the globe and travel around! In my exchange period, I was able to go to Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, and China. Flights to Bali are particularly cheap.
- 3) A lot of the exchange students here tend to only spend time with other exchange students. Put in the effort to become friends with the Australians too.

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

I would recommend UWA without hesitation. My experience here has truly been one of the best experiences of my life.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

If you want to ask me any questions about Perth, UWA, or Trinity, please feel free to send me an email. I would be happy to talk. Contact info is available at the IO.

Contact details Student Services / International Office

Visitors' address: Bestuursgebouw, Heidelberglaan 6, Utrecht

+31-(0)30-253 7000

exchange@qdesk.uu.nl (information) / verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl (report)

www.uu.nl/students/exchange



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Geowetenschappen
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Natuurwetenschap & Innovatiemanagement

Destination city & country	Perth, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	University of Western Australia
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	13/07/2016
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	14/01/2017

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The process differs per faculty, but you should expect quite a lot of paperwork. However, I did not find it difficult to fill in the paper work in and it was definitely worth it.

Counselling/support at home university:

The support from the home university was quite good. I found the pre-departure meeting to be very useful. Emails were always responded to quickly and adequately.

Academic preparation:

I followed three level 1 units and one level 2 unit at UWA. Overall, I did not find these units very hard and I felt that my academic preparation was more than sufficient.

Language preparation:

Since my high school mark for English was high enough, I did not need to take an extra test.

Finances:

Perth and Australia are very expensive, you should definitely not underestimate this. Also the flight tickets and visa expenses are quite high. I would recommend activating OV-vergoeding in the months that you are studying.

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

It took me some time to completely figure out the online environment in which you plan your units and allocate your classes. There are many tutorial groups for each unit that you can choose yourself, this makes it very easy to combine the different units.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The academic quality I found to be the same or even a bit lower compared to Utrecht. The facilities of UWA are really great and every lecture is also recorded.



Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

The international office at UWA is conveniently located on campus and can be helpful if you come to them with specific questions.

Transfer of credits:

Because I was doing extra units for my Bachelor, I could graduate immediately after my results were obtained. Because it takes some time for UWA to send the results to the home university and since they send it to the international office instead of your faculty, I ordered an extra transcript with priority through Student Connect (online environment with grades etc. of the UWA) and had that sent directly to my faculty. This was a bit quicker. If you would also graduate immediately after your time abroad I would recommend asking for this option at both UWA and at your home university.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

The orientation programme of UWA very useful and also very fun. It is a great way to already meet some people.

Accommodation:

I stayed in a room off campus and was very happy that I did that. It was a lot cheaper and I also enjoyed the liberty it gave me. I came to Perth one and a half weeks before the orientation week started and searched for places from a hostel. There are plenty of rooms offered online and I had no trouble finding a good room. Some friends of mine also found some other international students through Facebook before they arrived in Perth and searched for a house together. That is also a very good option since they paid very little rent for really great furnished houses.

When looking for a room I would recommend that they are close to a train station or a frequent bus line. In some places in Perth the buses stop driving really early! I also bought a very cheap bicycle on Gumtree and would advise doing that if you do not live on campus.

Leisure/culture:

Perth is truly a great city with a lot to offer! It has beautiful beaches and a great city park. I would really try to see as much of the city as possible and take as many trips as possible (UWA also offers some cheap daytrips).

Suggestions/tips:

In/close to the city: Fremantle (amazing market and a free beer tasting at Little Creatures Brewery!), Kings Park, Cottesloe beach, Rottnest Island, whale watching from Hillarys Boat Harbour (if the season is right), clubbing in Northbridge

In Western Australia: road trip to the southwest (Margaret River, Albany, Denmark), go up North (sandboard on the Lancelin Dunes, Pinnacles desert, Kalbarri (national park). I heard that further north is great as well!

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

Yes definitely! I loved the city and all it has a lot to offer. Also the university has a really beautiful campus located at the Swan River (I even spotted dolphins!) and has really good facilities. The travelling you can do from Perth is also a big plus side to the city.



Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Especially in the beginning, seize every opportunity and invitation and you will experience a lot of great stuff and meet lots of great people!

Contact details Student Services / International Office

Visitors' address: Bestuursgebouw, Heidelberglaan 6, Utrecht

+31-(0)30-253 7000

exchange@qdesk.uu.nl (information) / verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl (report)

www.uu.nl/students/exchange



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Science
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Mathematics and Applications

Destination city & country	Perth, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	University of Western Australia (UWA)
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	19/02/2016
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	31/08/2016, end of semester is 26/06/2016

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

After contemplating going abroad for a while, I initially decided to go in 2016/2017. Towards the end of 2014/2015 I decided I did want to go sooner, luckily there was still a spot left in Australia, one of my preferred countries at that stage.

Counselling/support at home university:

Was alright. Got help whenever I needed.

Academic preparation:

My academic preparation took quite a while, since I wanted to follow 4 courses (they call them units at UWA, courses are full degrees) that I could fit into my Bachelors degree back home.

Language preparation:

Since I scored 8/10 for my VWO English (high school), I met the language requirements.

Finances:

Australia is a very expensive country, especially if you want to do something more than just your host city has to offer.

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

Was fine. Was able to change all my units, that initially weren't approved, so that I could finish up my Bachelors in Perth after all.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

Where Australians are very competitive and UWA students are very proud of their university being among the top 100 of universities, I wouldn't say they have got a higher level of education than Utrecht University does (which, by the way, has a higher ranking than UWA). Would of course depend on your choice of units and your field of studies.



Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:
Excellent
Transfer of credits:
Not expecting any trouble
Student life
Welcome/orientation programme:
Since I joined residential the college University Hall, my orientation programme was packed with residential activities rather than activities of UWA. There are, however, enough activities for one to get involved and meet other exchange students.
Accommodation:
I stayed at the residential college University Hall. Where this is a great way to get to know locals as well as other exchangers, bear in mind that eating fourteen meals in a Dining Hall will become more and more of the same after a semester.
Speaking in hindsight, Trinity College would probably have been the better option. Regulations here are less strict and it includes 21 meals a week, for just a little extra a week.
Leisure/culture:
Where I arrived in summer, I did windsurfing and surfing during the first two months of my stay. Join the Outdoors Club if you are keen for activities like this.
Make note that Perth is not as much of a happening city as you would assume with 2 million inhabitants, since most of them live in suburbs and don't go to the actual city centre. Good enough for some serious shopping and nice dinners/nights out though.
Suggestions/tips:
Make sure to check the backpackers' organisation "Australian Backpackers" out for your flighttickets. Especially their deal with Cathay Pacific is very attractive, since dates are flexible and it is possible to have lay-overs in Bali and Hong Kong.
Conclusions
Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:
I would definitely recommend UWA. The contrast of the on-campus life and Utrecht student life is why I decided to go to Perth and is a very nice experience. In general, going on exchange certainly taught me how small this world, and in particular Europe, is.
Do you have any additional advice or comments?:
No, make sure you check the suggestion about airlines though.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Faculty of Humanities
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Engelse Taal en Cultuur

Destination city & country	Perth, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	University of Western Australia
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	13/02/2015
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	02/06/2015

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The proces of application for the University of Utrecht is pretty simple. You just file the going abroad section in Osiris and you're application will be done. In here you also have to submit a couple of papers, these might be a little harder to complete before the deadline has expired. I for example found out that the deadline had been moved from January the 1st to December the 1st. Because of this, I just had three days to find out who had to sign my study plan. Within the department of English Language and Culture, I was send from post to pillar a couple of times, but in the end I made it in time.

Once I heard that I was selected for a exchange to UWA, I thought I had taken care of everything. But then I found out that I needed supported material, because I did not have a 7 average. This was new information to me, but luckily my professors were very kind and quick in writing their academic references. Once everything was submitted, I got the good news and I was good to go.

Counselling/support at home university:

I feel that the International Office actually knows a lot, but the department and faculties might not always be up to date. This results in being send from post to pillar or receiving the wrong deadlines and information.

Academic preparation:

For me the academic preparation was fairly easy. Since it is my third year and final semester, I do not have any clashes with units back home. My BA supervisor was very kind and we agreed to a online supervision, so that I could write my thesis while I was at my semester abroad.

Language preparation:

Concerning Language preperation, I chose to do the IELTS test. This had simply to do with that the



IELTS is focused on British English and that is what I have studied. Also, they provide an online module in which you can practice. This gives a great overview for what you can expect during the tests.

Finances:

For my finances, I relied on my side-job in the Netherlands and a student loan from the Dutch government. This is more than enough to cover my expenses in Australia, even when you choose the more expensive housing (aka college) you can still provide yourself with these two supports.

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

Concerning my study programme, I am a full-time exchange student. This means that you are obliged to take four units at UWA. Since it is my final year, I only needed units to fulfil my "profielingsruimte" of my BA degree. This means that I could basically choose from all the units UWA provides. I have chosen Chinese, Anthropology, Aboriginal culture and Historical linguistics. Officially, I could have included Historical Linguistics in my major, but since I already completed my major subjects, it's now included in my minor.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

I feel that the passing grade at UWA is easier to achieve than a passing grade at UU. So far, all my units required essays and the lowest grade I got is a 75 (D). Averagely, my essays are in the High Distinction grade, which is something I would never achieve in the Netherlands. There my essays are mainly marked as a 6 on a 1-10 scale.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

I did not apply for any counselling or support at my host institution. So I could not say anything about that.

Transfer of credits:

My grades have not been transferred yet, so I would not know anything about that yet.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

I mainly followed the orientation programme of the college I enrolled in. This one was mainly about getting to know the campus and Perth city. I really enjoyed it, however, I would say that if I were younger I would probably have enjoyed it more, since most of the activities were directed to freshers.

Accommodation:

I stayed at St. Thomas More College. It is a nice way to get to know the Australian culture. However, be prepared for sleep deprivation and lots of parties. Also, compared to house sharing this is very expensive. If I had the chance to do it all over again, I would not have chosen for college, but house sharing instead. This will probably not be the problem from next year onwards. Due to construction at the college, many facilities were broken down to the ground and not available during this semester. Next year, the construction will be done and all the facilities will operate accordingly again. Living at college is a great way to meet other people. At the beginning, however, it made me feel really lonely. Due to a language barrier, I did not always understand what the people were talking about and therefore I was not always included in the conversations



and parties. Since all the other people were catching up with each other, I felt left alone. But it seems that the college actually wants to put in a lot of effort to make sure that this gap will be closed for exchange students from now onwards.

Leisure/culture:

The culture of Australia is very easy to describe. The main focus is on drinking and partying. Other stuff people like to do in their leisure time is working out, going to beach and travel around. In my time I have been to several national parks and places around Perth. Some of them were recommended by the college people and other things we just did on our own.

Suggestions/tips:

If you come to Perth and you don't have your diving certificate yet, do it here! There are amazing places here you can dive and the water in winter is still warm too. Also, check out the Pinnacle Desert and Walayunga Park.

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

I would recommend everyone to go a semester abroad. You will learn a lot about yourself and about the culture in other countries. If you are majoring in Engineering, Agriculture and Law this is the place to be. Also, if you want to know more about Aboriginal Culture UWA is the place to go. I feel that Perth shows how the "real" Australians are. Perth is still very isolated, compared to the other major cities, and therefore the Australians rely more on each other than in cities like Sydney and Melbourne, which are more internal-orientated.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Just go on exchange!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Geosciences
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Earthsciences

Destination city & country	Perth, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	University of Western Australia
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	10/02/2015
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	16/08/2015

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The process of application was a stress full experience as there was a strong lack of communication between the exchange counsellor and the counsellor of the host university. In addition, there was a lack of support from the home university counsellor towards me as an exchange student. As I had an average grade under the 7, I had go to through an extended application process of which I was not informed about. However, this additional process took a lot of time and as a result, the received approval was announced only one and a half week before departure.

Counselling/support at home university:

Although many briefings where organised in the beginning of the semester, I felt poorly informed on the specific application steps to be taken when being a student with an average under 7. Having a responsible counsellor from the home university and still being forced to figure out everything on your one is not supportive.

Academic preparation:

I worked extra hard in the semester prior to my departure to Australia so that I would not miss any study points.

Language preparation:

Additionally I needed to for fill a English test to show that my English speaking and writing qualities were good enough.

Finances:

Before starting the exchange adventure I have been working extra hours to save up money.

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

Once arrived in Perth, the host university staff for exchange students were very friendly and helpful



with arranging any study related issue. Within one week everything was sorted. Because the late approval to go abroad I arranged my accommodation for the semester once I arrived in Perth. This was also a bit stressful as completing this issue earlier would have provided a more relaxed start. However the house share in which I ended up, worked out really well. It is important to find a place, which is located centrally. From a central basis, it is easier to get to know your host city.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

Academic quality of the UWA (University of Western Australia) is different than the education provided in the Netherlands. Firstly, there is much more mandatory work included and therefore the workload is higher. However the level of academic difficulty is lower.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

The counselling/ support at the host University was strong as for every question, a visit to the student administration building on campus was the only step to take to get to a satisfying answer. Thus there was always somebody available to answer questions. This is different for students with the home university UU as questions there could only be answered by email or by making an appointment.

Transfer of credits:

I have not received all my results any summarizing email. Therefore I cannot say anything about the transfer of credits.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

The orientation programme was really well organised and pleasant. Time was reserved to meet new people and integrate.

Accommodation:

I have arranged my accommodation through the search and share site; Gum tree by which I found a reasonable priced house share where I have been living the semester. The accommodation of the campus was wonderful as the campus itself was beautiful and the surroundings were inspiring.

Leisure/culture:

The Australian culture is one like no other. Because the country is spacious, everybody is more relaxed and friendlier. There is no need for extreme competition, which makes Australia a great place to live and develop yourself as a person.

Suggestions/tips:

When starting new life in a new country, new city, new university make sure you will broaden your horizon by making friends in different directions. For example, be part of a new sport club so you can get to know more local people and be social and open to all of the exchange students you meet.

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

I would definitely recommend this host University to other people as the experience is amazing and it will stay in your memory forever. Even the friends I made in Australia will be part of the rest of my life and I know I want to go back one day, maybe forever.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:



Universiteit Utrecht

Communication is the key at all levels. Do not hold back when having questions, plan your exchange carefully so your eventual trip will be even more relaxed.